

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,015

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Applicant(s)

GATTS, TODD D.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-12, 17, 18 and 24-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


XU MEI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. The applicant has cancelled claims 1-6,13-16,19-23. The remaining claims were indicated allowable in the previous office action and remain in allowable form.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 7-12,17,18,24-30 are allowed.

Regarding claims 7,8,17,18,24,25 and 30 the prior art Mahmoud (US 4,882,743) discloses a multi-location videoconference system. Prior art Davis (US 5,454,041) discloses a mix-minus monitory system. Prior art Elliot et al. (US 2004/0180641) discloses a variable delay radio receiver. Prior art Moeller et al. (US 6,353,632) discloses video processing system with real time program duration compression and expansion. Prior art Hejna (US 6,934,759) discloses a method and apparatus for user-time alignment for broadcast works. Regarding claims 7,8,17,18,25,26, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious combining the time-changed audio information with second audio information that is responsive to the first audio information to provide broadcast audio information wherein a difference between the first time interval and the second time interval is based on a delay between a transmission time at which the first (or second) audio information is transmitted from a source to a destination and a reception time at which the first (or second) audio information is received at the destination.

Regarding claim 24 the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious

computer readable program code configured to determine that the first time- changed audio information and the second audio information occur during an overlapping time interval; and computer readable program code configured to change the second audio information comprises computer readable program code configured to time-compress the second audio information to occur in the fourth time interval that is greater than the third time interval.

Regarding claims 9 and 27, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious combining the time-changed audio information with second audio information that is responsive to the first audio information to provide broadcast audio information wherein a difference between the first time interval and the second time interval is based on a first delay between a first transmission time at which the first audio information is transmitted from a source to a destination and a first reception time at which the first audio information is received at the destination and further based on a difference between the first time interval and the second time interval is based on a second delay between a second transmission time at which the second audio information is transmitted from the destination to the source and a second reception time at which the second audio information is received at the source.

Therefore the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a method of processing audio information for broadcast to an audience as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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PRIMARY EXAMINER